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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 513
By Ford S

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Susan Gratz of
Morristown-Hamblen High School upon her
receipt of the 2000 Teacher of the Year Award
for Grades 9-12.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary professionals who have dedicated their careers to making education a relevant and productive experience for Tennessee's youth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan D. Gratz, Business/Computer Instructor at Morristown-Hamblen High School, is most assuredly one such superlative educator who is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gratz was recently honored by her receipt of Tennessee's 2000 Teacher of the Year Award for Grades 9-12; and

WHEREAS, she was deservedly honored for a job well done in her field of teaching; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gratz is a gifted instructor who teaches with great enthusiasm; she deeply cares about her students' education, both in the classroom and in life; and

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WHEREAS, Susan truly personifies the spirit of the Teacher of the Year Award, as she inspires her students to imagine a better future and work toward creating a better world; and

WHEREAS, the caring and attentive parents of her students have long recognized and appreciated Ms. Gratz's excellence as an educator and role model for young people; she currently serves with acumen and alacrity as sponsor of Teen-age Republicans (TARS) and Business Professionals of America (BPA); and

WHEREAS, under her astute tutelage, her TARS students tour local government offices, meeting national, state, and local government officials, and work as volunteers at political rallies; for BPA she arranges for her students to gather donations for UNICEF; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her meritorious service as a teacher, she holds, or has previously held, the following memberships: Hamblen County Technology Committee, 1994-present, chairperson of Adopt-A-School Committee for West High School, 1997-present; Tennessee Council for Geographic Education Summer Institute Instructor, 1999; Technology Literacy Curriculum Grant Committee, 1998; Hamblen County Education Edge Action Plan Development Committee, 1998; and membership on the State Vocational Assessment Team for Greeneville/Greene County Technology Center, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gratz's educational training is extensive; she obtained the Ed.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University; the Master of Science degree in Technological and Adult Education from the University of Tennessee; and her teacher's certification and Bachelor of Science degree in Teaching from East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, she has been a pioneer among teachers of by means of her collaboration on the following projects: assisting West High School students in writing original stories and artwork, which were placed in elementary school libraries throughout Hamblen County in 1997; assisting in the student production of a coloring book for fifth graders, featuring one-page stories

and pictures about American women in history (1998-1999); and the development of a book on "How to Teach AIDS Awareness" for teachers in Hamblen County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gratz is a devoted public servant whose involvement in the community focuses on her students; her church, St. Paul Presbyterian; and her family; as a mother, she is an active member of the PTO at both Union Heights Elementary and East Ridge Middle schools; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gratz is especially grateful for the love and support that she shares with her family, students, friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Susan Gratz should be saluted for her stalwart dedication to her students and her community and for the positive impact that she has on her students' lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Ms. Susan Gratz upon her receipt of the 2000 Teacher of the Year Award for Grades 9-12; we commend her superlative career as an educator and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.